imports and if so, the details thereof indicating the value of imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Shortage of certified/quality seeds of wheat and gram was anticipated in the country during 1988-89 to the extent of 3.59 lakh quintals and 0.65 lakh quintals respectively. In addition, due to unexpected floods in September, 1988, some additional shortage of wheat seeds was reported.

(b) No imports of seeds were made. The State Governments were advised to procure quality seed from various sources *viz.,* Seed Growers, Cooperatives, Food Corporation of India and State Civil Supplies Corporation etc. after duly testing for germination etc. to meet the shortage.

Diversification of Traditional Pattern of Agriculture

1126. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to diversify the traditional pattern of Agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the specific steps being taken in this regard and the centrally sponsored programme introduced in Tamil Nadu and Orissa for this purpose; and

(c) the details of the results achieved so far under the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steps for diversification of traditional pattern of agriculture includes:-

(i) Diversification of traditional long duration crop varieties with short duration varieties.

(ii) Diversification of un-bunded rainfed paddy land to less water exacting crops like maize, millets, pulses and oilseeds.

(iii) Popularisation of inter-cropping in the areas where growing of crops is possible only in one crop season.

(iv) Popularisation of sequence cropping in rainfed areas where stored soil moisture can support such a cropping pattern.

(v) Popularisation of paira cropping in low lands where only one crop of rice is grown, etc.

through the motivation of farmers, however, there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme in Tamil Nadu or Orissa or any other State, being implemented specifically for the purpose.

Recognition of Housing sector as an Industry

1127. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recognise the housing sector as an industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The manufacture of building materials already come under the purview of industry and only the service sector is not within the purview of industry. In view of the fact that fiscal concessions are available on the lines of industry for construction activity, it has been decided not to declare the entire housing sector as an industry.